

A convention for weavers, artisans

By **Noor Atiqah Sulaiman** - September 26, 2022 @ 8:00am



Workers yesterday setting up the textile collections to be displayed at the 8th Asean Traditional Textile Symposium in Putrajaya. -NSTP/MOHD FADLI HAMZAH

PUTRAJAYA: The 8th Asean Traditional Textile Symposium, which will be held at the Marriot Hotel here from today until Sept 30, will showcase hundreds of textile collections from various countries, including Turkey, Singapore and the Philippines.

With the theme "Celebrating Textiles: A Journey", the event, organised by Yayasan Tenun Pahang Diraja, would also gather 327 textile art activists, artisans, weavers and other participants from 16 countries.

The public will also get the chance to lay eyes on the collection of woven clothing by the children of Raja Permaisuri Agong Tunku Hajah Azizah Aminah Maimunah Iskandariah made from Tenun Pahang Diraja, Malaysian textile craft by the Malaysian Handicraft Development Corporation and songket textile collection by Yayasan Tengku Zahirah.

Tenun Pahang Diraja is a woven silk fabric popular in Pahang.



An exhibitor from Yayasan Tengku Nur Zahirah showing a fabric with traditional pattern to be showcased at the symposium. -NSTP/MOHD FADLI HAMZAH Also on display are the Tenun Pahang Diraja woven textile collection by the Prisons Department and batik textile collection from Universiti Teknologi Mara.

The biennial symposium would also feature 14 craft demonstrators from the Malaysian Handicraft Development Corporation to showcase the beauty of local textile art, including batik and songket, as well as the techniques such as weaving and embroidering.

The last symposium was held in Jogjakarta, Indonesia, in 2019 and later events were postponed due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Yang di-Pertuan Agong Al-Sultan Abdullah Ri'ayatuddin Al-Mustafa Billah Shah is scheduled to open the symposium and deliver the keynote address.

For the 8th symposium, the Prisons Department's industry vocational section chief, Zainah Pardi, said the department would showcase a collection of more than 40 Tenun Pahang Diraja pieces made by Penor and Bentong prison inmates.

"If you look at all of the items on display by the Prisons Department, each textile art has its own signature and the authenticity of the '*bunga colek*' can be seen from the subtle lines on every design.

"Moreover, the Her Majesty Raja Permaisuri herself had taught the inmates (on textile art).

"We have our own Tenun Pahang Diraja weaver, and the designs are made according to contemporary trends," she said yesterday.

She added that several prison officers were also among the textile art trainees taught by Tunku Azizah.

"Generally, weavers from other places are women.

"But at the prisons, all of the weavers are men.

"They have been trained, certified and are skilled in the art of weaving."

Yayasan Tenun Pahang Diraja was established to develop Tenun Pahang Diraja to provide jobs for artists and weavers.